this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Amendments

In the Claims:

Please substitute the following claim 7 for the pending claim 7:

7. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell has a mutant phosphoglucose isomerase *(pgi)* gene, and wherein said mutant gene is a disrupted *pgi* gene.

Please substitute the following claim 18 for the pending claim 18:

18. (Twice Amended) A method of producing L-amino acids selected from the group consisting of L-lysine, L-threonine and L-isoleucine, comprising:

culturing an altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a decreased amount of 6-phosphoglucose isomerase enzymatic activity as compared to an unaltered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell wherein said L-amino acid yields from said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell are greater than yields from an unaltered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell, and wherein said *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell has a disrupted *pgi* gene.

Please substitute the following claim 19 for the pending claim 19:

19. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said L-amino acid yields from said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a disrupted *pgi* gene are from about 1% to about 100% greater than from said unaltered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell.

Please substitute the following claim 20 for the pending claim 20:

20. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a disrupted *pgi* gene has a mutant *pgi* gene.

Please substitute the following claim 21 for the pending claim 21:

21. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said altered *Corynebacterium glutamicum* cell having a disrupted *pgi* gene is produced by

(a) subcloning an internal region of a *pgi* gene; and

(b) inserting said resulting vector from step (a) into a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* genome via homologous recombination.